



HR1348

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives recognize our former colleague, State
4 Representative Constance A. "Connie" Howard, and thank her for
5 her many years of service to the people of Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, Representative Howard was born on December 14,
7 1942, in Chicago to Henry and Thelma Bozeman, the second of 4
8 children, and was raised in the Woodlawn neighborhood; she
9 attended James Wadsworth Elementary School and Hyde Park High
10 School; Rep. Howard graduated from Chicago Teacher's College,
11 now Chicago State University, with a bachelor of arts degree in
12 liberal arts, later earning a master's degree in corrections
13 and criminal justice from Chicago State University; and

14 WHEREAS, Representative Howard was an active community
15 volunteer, worked for the Illinois Department of Human Rights,
16 and also covered the south side of Chicago as a reporter for a
17 community newspaper, all which fueled her passion for social
18 justice; and

19 WHEREAS, Representative Howard served as a coordinator for
20 the historic 1983 and 1987 campaigns of former Chicago Mayor
21 Harold Washington; in 1984, she was chosen by Mayor Washington
22 and the late State Senator and former Illinois Senate President

1 Cecil Partee to be the Democratic State Central Committee's
2 woman representative for the 1st Congressional District; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1992, Representative Howard coordinated the
4 south side U.S. Senate campaign office of Carol Moseley-Braun,
5 who became the first and only African-American woman to serve
6 in the body; she coordinated south side efforts to elect Bill
7 Clinton president in 1992; in 1996, she served on the Rules
8 Committee of the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, and
9 served as an alternate convention delegate in 1984 and 1988;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, In 1994, Representative Howard campaigned for and
12 was elected to represent a large portion of the southeast side
13 of Chicago and the south suburbs in the Illinois House of
14 Representatives; and

15 WHEREAS, As State representative, Representative Howard
16 earned a reputation as a compassionate yet firm voice for
17 working families and the less fortunate; she focused her
18 legislative efforts on improving public health, criminal
19 justice reform, and empowering families through the
20 development of high speed internet accessibility; and

21 WHEREAS, Representative Howard served on numerous
22 committees in the Illinois House, including the committees on

1 Aging, Small Business, Veterans Affairs, Housing, Healthcare
2 Disparities, and Public Safety Appropriations, among others;
3 she served as chair of the Judiciary II - Criminal Law
4 Committee and vice-chair of Human Services; she also served as
5 chair of the House Legislative Black Caucus and as a member of
6 the Conference of Women Legislators; and

7 WHEREAS, As HIV and AIDS spread rapidly through the
8 African-American community, Representative Howard was one of
9 the strongest voices for treatment and prevention programs that
10 saved countless lives; she authored the Illinois African
11 American HIV/AIDS Response Act to formulate a coordinated
12 government response to the epidemic, considered the first of
13 its kind in the nation; and

14 WHEREAS, Representative Howard has long been active in the
15 movement to raise awareness and funding for breast cancer
16 research during times of scarce resources; and

17 WHEREAS, Representative Howard led statewide efforts to
18 raise awareness of the "digital divide" and expand internet
19 access in impoverished communities across Illinois, helping to
20 increase usage of high speed internet by African Americans; and

21 WHEREAS, Representative Howard consistently fought for
22 criminal justice reforms that emphasized rehabilitation and

1 results; she worked with numerous faith-based and
2 community-based prisoner re-entry programs, recognizing that
3 the best way to leave crime behind is the opportunity for a job
4 and a legitimate way to support one's family; she worked
5 tirelessly to convince others that everyone shares the same
6 goal of an end to crime, and helped to create countless
7 opportunities to receive an education and job skills that will
8 allow everyone to contribute to society; and

9 WHEREAS, Representative Howard enjoys spending time with
10 her family; she has been married to Phillip Howard, Jr. since
11 1963 and they are very proud of their son, Phillip III, an
12 airline pilot, and adore spending time with their five
13 grandchildren; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
15 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we thank State Representative Constance A. "Connie" Howard for
17 her service to her community and State, and wish her the best
18 in all her future endeavors; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to Connie Howard as an expression of our respect and
21 gratitude.